



Volume 24

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

August 2015

*Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ*

## 2015 ARCEC Club Picnic

Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> is the day for the annual Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon Club Picnic. The setting will be the lovely community of Crest at Nancy Jane Park. Our pot luck picnic will begin around 10:00 AM, with fellowship, food and fun. Nancy Jane Park has a playground for the kids, clean restrooms and plenty of parking. Bring your favorite dish, desert or whatever Burgers, hot dogs with condiments, and drinks will be supplied by the club.

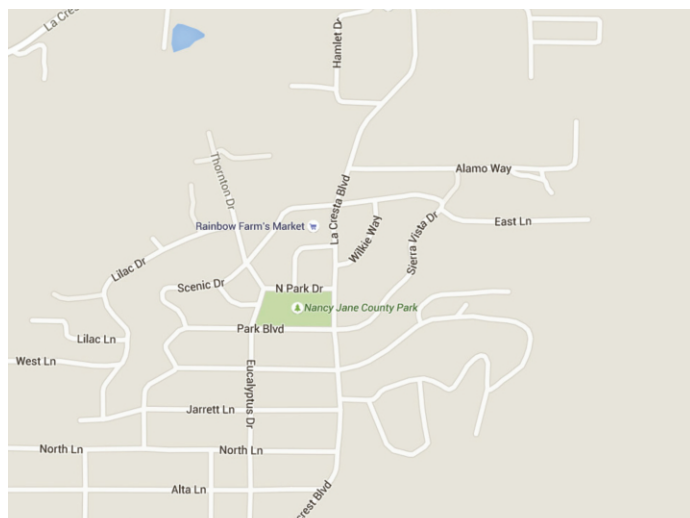
Come joins us enjoy the cool mountain air. Crest is wonderful place to have a picnic and enjoy the company of our club members, good food, good conversation and fun will be had by all. Nancy Jane Park is located at; 120 N Park Dr, La Cresta Blvd. Is the main cross street. There is a gazebo in the south east corner of the park, we will be there, near the corner of La Cresta and Park, we hope to see you there.



## San Diego Hamfest 2015

The Lakeside Amateur Club is putting on San Diego Hamfest 2015 to be held at the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds on October 3<sup>rd</sup> for more details see [www. Sdhamfest.org](http://www.Sdhamfest.org)

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# August Meeting Highlights

At our August meeting club President Dave Ward KD6DW put on a presentation detailing modifications to the W2AU balun; one of the most widely used baluns in amateur radio. The modifications involve replacing the balun housing, and changing the way the balun is wired to the external eye bolts.

After Dave's presentation he modified one showing the steps involved and his own variations on those steps that cut the cost of the balun mod without sacrificing quality. Dave also pointed out that this is a good time to do a good inspection of the balun and fix anything that may be problematic in the future. It was a great presentation, attendance was 30 members.

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## Editor's Notes

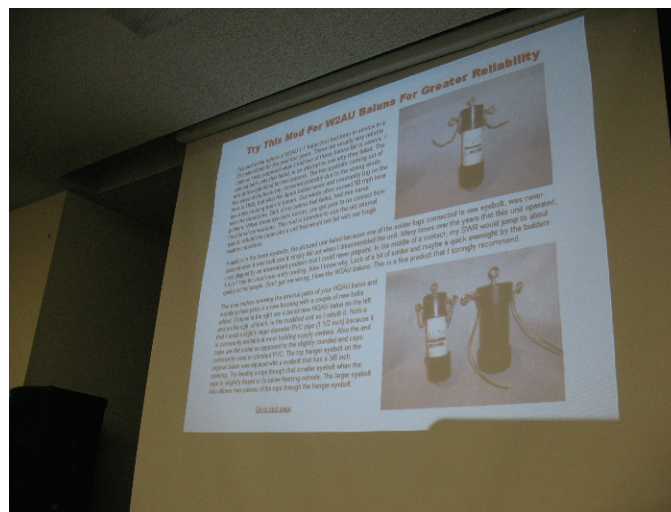
*By Sue Robins AF6LJ*

We are well into the dog days of summer and, the end of the year will be here before we know it. This is the time of the year to think about the Club Picnic, Elections, our Home Brew Contest and other events. This year we have The San Diego Hamfest put on by LARC. We also have our Christmas Party.

Our club has been growing at a steady rate; new, and returning members have been filling our meeting hall. Now if we can only get Mother Nature to cooperate and give us some good propagation, it would make a few hams happy and they could get those last few DXCC countries, it would sure help out those of us who rag chew on 75 meters on weekend mornings.

This is a good time to be thinking about two upcoming events; the Homebrew Contest, and our Ham of the Year Award.

The Homebrew contest is not limited to just homebrew projects, kit projects are also included. We know that far more hams build kits than build something from scratch.



## ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2

Some of us make changes to gear to improve it. I have an ongoing project that involves upgrading a Heathkit SB-220 The project is over half way finished, and will be a future presentation; perhaps next year if other more pressing projects are completed.

Kit building is how many of us got started in radio, there are a few members of our club who turned our hobby into a career. Pat WA6MHZ and I are two examples. Don't let that stop you from entering something in the Homebrew Contest. The basis of the contest is to encourage people to take up the electronics aspect of the hobby, to build things, develop their skills and become empowered. When someone who has never picked up a soldering iron before builds a kit that carries a lot more weight with the judges than those of us who work with this stuff every day.

Ham of the Year, the person who has gone above and beyond to make the club better. This is always a good time to begin thinking of who deserves Ham of the Year. As we come out of summer and head toward the end of the year the best is yet to come. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings.

If you have something you would like to see in Counterpoise, anything of interest to our members. Your homebrew projects, articles pertaining to local activities or your thoughts on amateur radio current events, send that content to [counterpoise@wa6bgs.us](mailto:counterpoise@wa6bgs.us) You are what makes the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, we wouldn't exist without you the membership. Join us at our meetings and activities and become a part of the club.

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## September meeting presentation

The In's, and out's of Baluns

## Club Membership & Dues

Club dues and new memberships can now be paid online. The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon website [wa6bgs.us](http://wa6bgs.us) has been updated to accept membership dues, and new members. The link is at the top of the page, just follow the instructions on the Join / Renew page. Our website is a work in progress and there will be more good things to follow in the months ahead, so visit often.

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## Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand.

## The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has been running a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF and UHF repeaters. The repeaters are linked to accommodate the needs and accessibility of all who wish to participate. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

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# ARCEC Swap Meet Rules

The The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon has started a new member service called ARCEC Swap Meet. The swap meet is a place for members to buy, sell, trade, or give away ham related gear to primarily other members. Our goal is to facilitate the exchange of gear between ARCEC members. You must be a member in good standing (paid up!!) in order to post any type of ad. Any member of the public may respond to the ad. Our goal is to provide this service to better serve our members. Send your ads to <mailto:counterpoise@wa6bgs.us> In the subject line put the words, SWAP MEET. Your ad will appear on the website and in the next issue of Counterpoise.

There are a few simple rules and conditions that are in place to provide boundaries, and clarify the club's role in this service.

The club assumes no responsibility for any transactions.

Buyers and sellers assume full responsibility for their transactions.

Ads will appear in Counterpoise and on our website at [www.wa6bgs.us](http://www.wa6bgs.us).

## **Sellers:**

Must provide ad copy in ether plain text with the following items:

Contact information, (use discretion when providing contact information, only that information which you feel comfortable being published should be used).

A description of the product to be sold, including its condition.

The price, means of payment, and indicate if a trade for something else is an option.

While not necessary, a photo (.jpg format) of the product would be helpful to buyers.

Please proof read your ad submissions. The Counterpoise editor, and the webmaster will also read the ad, but the responsibility falls on the seller to provide an accurate ad, free of typographical errors.

Finally, let us know when your product has sold then we can pull the ad, and free up space for others, not to mention the annoyance of receiving an offer to buy something you sold three months ago.

## **IMPORTANT:**

Radio equipment, parts, manuals, tools, and related items only.

Any piece of gear that is capable of transmitting should be sold to licensed amateurs (this should go without saying).

Illegal amplifiers and related gear can be sold since owning non type-accepted radio equipment is not illegal, only its use or retail sale. These items can always be sold for parts.

## **Items Wanted:**

Items wanted ads should follow the same guidelines as selling an item. Photos are not necessary.

## **Items for Trade or Give Away:**

Items for Trade or Give Away should follow the same guidelines as selling an item. A photo (.jpg format) of the product would be helpful.

## **Buyers:**

Information is power; do your due diligence.

The club provides the swap meet page as a free service, all transactions are between you and the seller.

ARCEC, Counterpoise, or the website [www.wa6bgs.us](http://www.wa6bgs.us) will not publish "ham to ham" references, or buyer / seller reviews of any kind. The outcome of transactions will not be published with the exception of the item being sold.

## ***This service is not open to the following:***

- Retail businesses selling any equipment.
- Businesses who offer services such as commercial radio / tower installation, etc.
- Non-members cannot place any type of ad.
- Those who the Board of Directors deem unfit to use the service.

## Swap Meet Listings

### Items For Sale

Rigblaster Pro model #58002-953. Bought but never used, like new condition. Includes all cables and DVD of software (see photos). Original retail price was \$299.95, current retail price is \$269.95, and my asking price is \$150.00 . For more details or to arrange for purchase, please contact Joe Bennett at [w6vmx@rocketmail.com](mailto:w6vmx@rocketmail.com) .



### Items Wanted

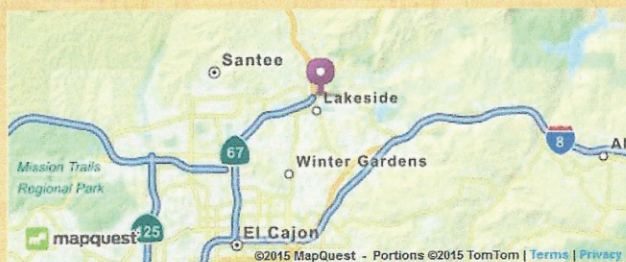
Joe - W6VMX - I am looking for a Kenwood TM-621A (or a TM-721A too) dual band VHF/UHF mobile transceiver for parts only. Does not need to be working, just looking to use it to replace parts on another unit. If you have one you want to sell or donate, please contact me via my email at [w6vmx@rocketmail.com](mailto:w6vmx@rocketmail.com) to make arrangements with me. Thanks.



Russ - KK6QWO - I'm a new ham and don't have anything except a HT. I'm looking for a power supply for my Kenwood base, a power cord and a 4 pin mic, not to mention a 2M mobile and antenna. Contact me at [russell.wise@navy.mil](mailto:russell.wise@navy.mil).



# SAN DIEGO HAMFEST 2015

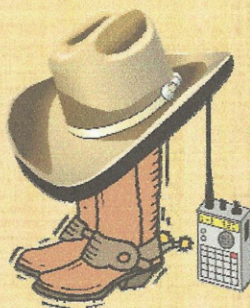


**Location:**

*Lakeside Rodeo Grounds*

12584 Mapleview St. Lakeside CA.

Free Parking and Antenna Friendly



[www.lakesidearc.org](http://www.lakesidearc.org)

Sponsored by: Lakeside Amateur Radio Club



Date: October 3, 2015

Time: 7 AM—3PM Swapmeet at 6 AM

Cost: \$5.00

*You are cordially invited to attend the 2015 San Diego Hamfest. We plan on starting out the day with a Swapmeet, Vendors, Speaker Forums, Door Prizes! and VE Testing.*

- **ARRL Forum**
- **Ham Radio Vendors**
- **Swapmeet**
- **Door Prizes**
- **VE Testing**
- **Free Parking!!!!**

[www.SDhamfest.org](http://www.SDhamfest.org)

Ver 2.4



The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON** Inc.  
**WA6BGS**

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash    Check    Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:    Individual (\$20/year)    Family\* (\$35/year)

Membership Status:    New    Renewal    Returning Member

Call Sign    First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member:    Yes    No

License Class:    Technician    General    Extra    Other

Email Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

**Submitting this form:**

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at [www.wa6bgs.us](http://www.wa6bgs.us) which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.